

BETHENERGY MINES CORPORATION, MINE 78C
Railroad Street
Cambria County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-340-A

HAER
PA
II-ELT.V,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
BETHENERGY MINES CORPORATION, MINE 78C

HAER No. PA-340-A

Location: Near the town of Mine 42[?], Elton
vicinity, Cambria County, Pennsylvania

Date of Construction: ca. 1960

Present Owner: BethEnergy Mines Corporation.

Present Use: Abandoned.

Significance: Owned by the BethEnergy Mines
Corporation, Mine 78C is one of several
coal mines in Cambria County that were
worked in concert with Bethlehem Steel
Company's coke plants at Franklin and
Rosedale in the greater Johnstown area.
The conveyor system and tipple utilize
standard 1960s and 1970s technology;
however, in more recent years trucks
hailed the coal from the tipple instead
of railroad cars.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, 1988.

Project Information: The results of the study of Cambria
County were published in 1990:
Fitzsimons, Gray, editor, Blair County
and Cambria County, Pennsylvania: An
Inventory of Historic Engineering and
Industrial Sites (Washington, D.C.:
America's Industrial Heritage Project
(AIHP) and HABS/HAER, National Park
Service). The contents of the
publication were transmitted to the
Library of Congress as individual
reports. Research notes, field photos
and copies of historic photos collected
during the project were transmitted to
the AIHP Collection, Special
Collections, Stapleton Library, Indiana
University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA
15705.

Bethlehem Mines Corporation

The coal lands now owned by Bethlehem Steel Company's subsidiary firm, the BethEnergy Mines Corporation (formerly the Bethlehem Mines Corporation) were previously the property of three different companies. This included the Cambria Steel Company, the Monroe Coal Mining Company, and the Heisley Coal Company, the latter two of which were controlled by John H. Weaver. The Bethlehem Mines Corporation assumed control of the Cambria Steel mines soon after Bethlehem Steel acquired the interests of the Cambria Steel Company in 1923. Its mining property included the Rolling Mill No. 71 (closed in September 1931), the Rosedale No. 72 (closed November 1960), the Franklin Nos. 73 and 74 (closed in October 1962), Franklin No. 75 (closed in June 1928), and Franklin No. 76 (closed in June 1928). These properties were administered by the newly established Johnstown Division of Bethlehem Mines.

The properties owned by John Weaver were purchased by the Bethlehem Mines Corporation in 1948. In addition, Bethlehem Mines leased another 24,000 acres of land in Cambria Township from the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Corporation. As part of its acquisitions and leases in 1948, Bethlehem Mines gained control of the Cambria and Indiana Railroad. Subsequently, the Bethlehem Mines established a Cambria Division of its mining operations in northern Cambria and Indiana counties. By 1966 the Cambria and Johnstown divisions were merged into the Cambria Division, and about ten years later this reorganized division was operating nine mines: No. 31B in Nanty Glo, No. 32B in Revloc, No. 33B and No. 33C south of Ebensburg, No. 38D in Ehrenfeld, No. 38E in Summerhill, No. 73C, near Elton, No. 77B near Mineral Point, and No. 78C located south of Elton and east of Windber. In addition, the Cambria Division ran two preparation plants, the Brookdale Plant near Mineral Point and the Cambria Slope Plant near Ebensburg.

The downturn in the steel industry in the early 1980s along with the increased cost of operating some of the older mines forced the shutdown of several of the Cambria Division's operations. This included mines 73B, 38D, 38E, 31, 32, and the Brookdale Preparation Plant and Mine 77B. In 1985 the Cambria Division was merged with the Ellsworth Division to form the Pennsylvania Division of the BethEnergy Mines Corporation. Currently, BethEnergy Mines is mining two seams at No. 33 and operating the nearby Cambria Slope Preparation Plant. The No. 33 mine is the largest active mine in Cambria County. Mine 78C only recently closed.

Sources

BethEnergy Mines Corporation, "History of Cambria Division,"
(typewritten paper in possession of BethEnergy Mines
Corporation, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania: 1988).

Al Gailey, Property Manager, BethEnergy Mines Corporation,
Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, phone interview with Gray
Fitzsimons, HAER, 13 January 1988.